

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053011
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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TO USLO PEKING

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WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, C;, US, EFIN

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY HABIB MEETING WITH PRCLO CHIEF
HUANG CHEN

1. AT PRCLO DINNER MARCH 1 UNDER SECRETARY HABIB DISCUSSED
WITH AMBASSADOR HUANG MIDDLE EAST, US-SOVIET RELATIONS,
AND CLAIMS/ASSETS ISSUE. HUANG WAS UNUSUALLY LOQUACIOUS;
HE SEEMED ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS ISSUES AND WAS GENUINELY
APPRECIATIVE OF OPENNESS WITH WHICH HABIB DISCUSSED THE
MIDDLE EAST TRIP.

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MIDDLE EAST

2. AFTER HEARING HABIB'S BRIEFING, WHICH FOLLOWED LINES
OF BRIEFINGS USED WITH WASHINGTON EMBASSIES, HUANG SAID
HE BELIEVED US UNDERSTOOD CHINA'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY.
PRC BELIEVED THAT PALESTINIAN QUESTION SHOULD BE SETTLED
TO SATISFACTION OF PALESTINIANS BY ESTABLISHMENT OF

INDEPENDENT STATE. ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW TO 1967 BORDERS. PRC IS PLEASED THAT US IS COMMITTED TO PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN SEEKING OVER-ALL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. THIS CONFIRMS CHAIRMAN MAO'S ADVICE THAT US FOLLOW AN

EVEN-HANDED POLICY, WHICH, IF CONTINUED, WOULD ENABLE US TO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE THERE. HUANG ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT USSR INFLUENCE IN MIDDLE EAST WAS AT LOW-POINT.

US-SOVIET RELATIONS

3. HUANG SAID THAT CHINA WAS NOT AFRAID OF USSR AND COULD HANDLE ANY CONFRONTATION BUT THAT WEST IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TOWARD SOVIETS. HE NOTED THAT ILYCHEV HAD LEFT PEKING WITHOUT ANY PROGRESS ON BORDER ISSUES. SOVIETS HAD THOUGHT NEGOTIATING GAIN MIGHT FOLLOW MAO'S DEATH BUT INSTEAD DISCOVERED THAT "REAL COMMUNISTS" IN PEKING DID NOT ABANDON THEIR PRINCIPLES. NOTHING WAS ACCOMPLISHED, HUANG SAID, DURING ILYCHEV'S RECENT PERIOD IN PEKING. HUANG SAID PRC DID NOT OBJECT TO US DEALING WITH SOVIETS BECAUSE CHINESE BELIEVE THAT THE BETTER WE KNOW THE SOVIETS THE MORE WE WOULD REALIZE THEY COULD NOT BE TRUSTED, WHICH CHINA HAD LEARNED BY BITTER EXPERIENCE.

CLAIMS/ASSETS

4. HABIB MENTIONED THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING CLAIMS/ASSETS QUESTION AND INTENDED TO APPROACH THE CHINESE TO SEE IF CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY WERE SERIOUS ABOUT MAKING PROGRESS. HUANG RESPONDED VIGOROUSLY BY SAYING THEY WERE PREPARED TO MAKE PROGRESS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN AGREEMENT AT ONE STAGE BUT US HAD INTRODUCED EXTRANEIOUS CONSIDERATIONS. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT AS A RESULT BENEFITS WHICH WOULD STIMULATE TRADE WERE DENIED, THE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND TRADE WERE THUS LIMITED, CHINESE AIRPLANES COULD NOT COME TO THE US, AND GENERAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COULD NOT BE PURSUED.

5. HABIB RESPONDED THAT MATTERS HUANG CONSIDERED TO BE EXTRANEIOUS COULD BE FAIRLY EASILY RESOLVED IF THE CHINESE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OUR REQUIREMENTS HAD NO NEFARIOUS PURPOSE AND WERE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THEM BUT WERE TO ENABLE US TO PROCEED WITHOUT FACING OBSTACLES LATER. HABIB SAID EA BUREAU WOULD CONTACT PRCLO FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF MATTER. HUANG ASKED IF HABIB WERE AWARE OF ROCKEFELLER'S INTEREST IN ISSUE, REMINDING HABIB OF ROCKEFELLER'S CONVERSATION WITH LI HSIEN-NIEN.

SINO-US RELATIONS; SOVIET FACTOR

6. AFTER EXCHANGE ON CLAIMS/ASSETS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY
RELATED TO THAT ISSUE, HUANG COMMENTED THAT IN 1972 NIXON

MADE A MOVE TOWARD CHINA. THEREAFTER, USSR MADE CON-
CESSIONS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US. THE US SHOULD TAKE
A LESSON FROM THIS, HE SAID, AND REALIZE THAT WHEN IT MADE
MOVES TOWARD CHINA THE SOVIETS BECAME MORE COOPERATIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, CLAIMS, ASSETS, MEETING REPORTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, PEACE PLANS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE053011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HETTHAYER:MFR
Enclosure: FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850056-1895, N770002-0007
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770373/aaaacxt.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e1f43dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3148676
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDER SECRETARY HABIB MEETING WITH PRCLO CHIEF HUANG CHEN
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CH, US, XF, UR, (HABIB, PHILIP C), (HUANG CHEN)
To: PEKING HONG KONG MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e1f43dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009